UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/871
21 September 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 September 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, calling attention to the hostile and provocative actions carried out by the United States and other naval forces stationed in the Arabian Gulf against vessels bound for Iraq and to the harmful consequences of these actions, which include increased suffering for the Iraqi civilian population.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 September 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to our letters addressed to you, the most recent of which was that of 5 July 1998 (S/1998/613), giving detailed information concerning the great many hostile practices and provocative actions illegally undertaken by the United States and other naval forces stationed in the Arabian Gulf. These actions are exemplified, in particular, by the arbitrary searches of vessels bound for Iraq that are carried out in violation of the principles and norms of the Charter of the United Nations and in breach of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Enormous economic and other damage has been done by the stopping of the vessels in question. The climate of disruption that has been created has been a direct cause of the rise in insurance and carriage costs that has had an adverse impact on the situation of members of the civilian population as it concerns the possibility of convenient and assured access to foodstuffs, medication and humanitarian requirements, and it has thus exacerbated their suffering.

The Republic of Iraq, as it condemns and protests against these hostile practices, affirms the fact that, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law and, in particular, those of State responsibility, it reserves its right to take all legal measures to seek compensation for the direct and indirect damage sustained by Iraq and its people as a result of these practices.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq